

**Statement on Recent Concerns  
about  
Census Bureau Public-Use Micro-Data Samples**

The Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Program is aware of the concerns that users of Census Bureau-produced public-use micro-data samples (PUMS) have regarding the issues raised by Trent Alexander, Michael Davern, and Betsey Stevenson in their paper "Inaccurate Age and Sex Data in the Census PUMS files: Evidence and Implications"

(<http://bpp.wharton.upenn.edu/betseys/papers/Inaccurate%20Age%20and%20Sex%20Data%20in%20Census%20PUMS%20Files.pdf>).

Reports by Justin Wolfers in the New York Times and Carl Bialik in the Wall Street Journal have brought this technical paper, which was released last summer at the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington, DC

([http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=activity\\_details&activityid=309&sessionid=204452](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=activity_details&activityid=309&sessionid=204452)), to the attention of many data users and the general public.

The LED Program data products--Quarterly Workforce Indicators, OnTheMap, QWI Online, Industry Focus, Older Worker Profiles, and CED HotReport--do not use any of the Census 2000 or American Community Survey public-use micro-data samples that are affected by the disclosure avoidance problems noted by Alexander, Davern, and Stevenson. The issues raised by those authors concern only the PUMS files produced from confidential Census Bureau data, not the underlying data themselves. Internal confidential Census Bureau files, used for all LED products, were not affected.

All LED products use tested disclosure avoidance methods that reliably reproduce age and sex distributions of employed workers in the sub-populations for which we publish data.

Questions or comments should be sent to [CES.Local.Employment.Dynamics@census.gov](mailto:CES.Local.Employment.Dynamics@census.gov).